

Message Text

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12

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3374

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON BHUTTO VISIT TO IRAN

REF: A. TEHRAN 3355

B. TEHRAN 3324

C. TEHRAN 3285

1. WE ARE STRUCK WITH THE UNUSUALLY WARM RECEPTION THE SHAH HAS GIVEN PRESIDENT BHUTTO. THIS COUPLED WITH HIS REMARKS OF ESTEEM FOR BHUTTO BORDER ON THE LINE OF BEING PATRONIZING WHICH UNFORTUNATELY CREEPS INTO IRANIAN DIPLOMACY FROM TIME TO TIME.

2. THE SHAH HAS TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF BHUTTO' S VISIT TO PRESS HOME TO ALL THAT IRAN WILL STAND FIRM AS A FRIEND OF PAKISTAN. HE HAS GIVEN WHAT IS TANTAMOUNT TO A NOTICE OF WARNING THAT IRAN WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY SHOULD THERE BE OUTSIDE MEDDLING IN PAKISTAN WHEN HE STATED THAT FOR IRAN ANYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO PAKISTAN IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE--" WE COULD
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NOT SEE ANYTHING HAPPEN AGAIN TO THIS COUNTRY." THIS EXPRESSION WAS FORMALIZED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHEN IT WAS SAID " THEY (PAKISTAN AND IRAN) RESOLVED THAT THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD RESOLUTELY STAND BY EACH OTHER IN ALL MATTERS BEARING ON THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

3. THE SHAH' S BANQUEST SPEECHES (REFTELS B AND C) WHICH APPEARED IN THE PRESS ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THAT THEY CLEARLY SET FORTH: (A) IRAN WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY IF A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IS INITIATED IN PAKISTAN; (B) IRAN WILL MOVE IN CONCERT WITH PAKISTAN ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH; AND (C) IRAN WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO KEEP THE STRAITS OF HORMOZ OPEN IN THE EVENT IT BECOMES NECESSARY, AND ITS POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF IS TO SEE THAT RIVALRIES BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS ARE PUT ASIDE. THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT NEW BUT THEY HAVE AGAIN BEEN CATEGORICALLY STATED BY THE SHAH FOR ALL TO KNOW THEY ARE ON RECORD. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS IN THE COMMUNIQUE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DECIDING TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION ON A MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO PROMOTE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, REFLECTED SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE BANQUEST SPEECHES OR POSITIONS ALREADY WELL KNOWN.

4. IN OUR OPINION THE SHAH HAS MADE A VERY SPECIAL EFFORT TO SHOW IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT PAKISTAN' S INTEGRITY AND FRIENDSHIP CONSTITUTE A PRINCIPAL FACET IN IRAN' S OWN SECURITY AND WELL- BEING AND THAT HE BELIEVES, AS STATED IN A KAYHAN EDITORIAL OF MAY 15, THAT A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS PAKISTAN SHELTERS IRAN FROM A TURBULENT ASIA. HE UNDOUBTEDLY FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE TO HAVE PAKISTAN AS A BUFFER STATE BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAN AND TO THIS END WILL STRIVE TO SEE PAKISTAN DOES NOT FRAGMENT AND IS KEPT FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. VISIT HAS PRODUCED NUMBER RUMORS THAT IRAN AND PAKISTAN ARE DEVELOPING CLOSER MILITARY, EVEN TREATY, RELATIONSHIP. WE DOUBT THAT FORMAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WILL EMERGE BUT IT REASONABLE TO ASSUME LEADERS OF TWO COUNTRIES DID DISCUSS PAKISTAN' S MILITARY NEEDS, AREAS WHERE IRAN MIGHT HELP AND CONTINGENCY PLAN TO CHANNEL ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IN EVENT OF ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.
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